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THE NEWS Looks At MAINE --- Elmhurst



CO-DONOR AND BENEFICIARIES—Mrs. Jane Hyde Penn of Bath, who with her two sisters gave the palatial Elmhurst estate to the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, is shown with four children the society has benefited.



PRESIDENT TWICE OVER—President Julius Seelye of Colby college is also president of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, recipients of Elmhurst.



CENTER OF THERAPY—Elmhurst, built in 1913 and 1914 by John Sedgwick Hyde, this year was given by the Hyde granddaughters to the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children to widen the scope of the society's work.

Work Of Society For Crippled Children Enhanced By New Home

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NEWS Staff Correspondent

Elmhurst, the palatial residence of the late John Sedgwick Hyde of Bath, constructed as a sort of private P.O.A. project in 1913-1914, when workers outnumbered available jobs, is again to become the center of gaffery.

The scene of many lavish social events, built at an estimated cost of a half million dollars, has been taken over by the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children—an outright gift of the three Hyde granddaughters, Mrs. Jane Hyde Penn, Mrs. Nancy Haggard and Mrs. Sally Hyde Knight.

TWO BEARS FULFILLED

In this one gesture were fulfilled two dreams, that of the Hyde granddaughters in finding an appropriate center of therapy for the children and that of the society which had long felt the need of a home for convalescent children, one that would enable them to live as other children live.

Elmhurst, made to order for the purpose, situated on spacious grounds, is of local construction, designed throughout, the exterior of a modern home which will stand for all time. The building is equipped with an elevator ready to be of service to wheelchair patients, and that 17 rooms which are readily converted into several times that number of smaller ones.

SOCIAL CENTER

Constructed by John Calvin Stearns, a fellow in the Institute of Architects, and his associate, John Howard Stearns, the mansion boasts a large ball room on the third floor, a swimming pool in the basement, a large library and a lobby.

A completely equipped greenhouse is attached, with opportunity for flower and vegetable gardens where the children who are physically handicapped will have opportunity to learn horticulture and work in the open air at light tasks.

Elmhurst, the home has witnessed many lavish social events, the last being a party given by the Hyde granddaughters in February, 1945, the year following its completion, when nearly 500 of the city's people witnessed a gala by Madame Blanche Jones de Capoue, Bath's girl to the opera world, and her equally talented husband, Ralph de Capoue. Beneficiaries were seated in the dining room by a corps of trained waiters from Bath.

SPONSORED OPERATING

Hyde was born in Bath, Maine, and received his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he was graduated in 1910. He returned to Bath and went into the employ of the Bath Iron Works.

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PROVIDES WORK

This is contrary to the popular belief that the Hyde athletic building was named in honor of William, Dewitt Hyde, the colony's president who died in the summer of 1937.

To provide work when work was scarce, Hyde was the underlying factor in the construction of the Elmhurst estate into the "Pine Tree Society," in which the wild land and forest about the estate were replanted and converted into a great park. In this park he constructed his magnificent home on a large which was long known as Elmhurst.

The residence of the gift, the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, where board of directors runs the estate, was incorporated in 1938 as a statewide organization of Maine citizens who both recognized the needs of the handicapped and performed the work of helping crippled children to learn to live and play as do other children.

SERVICES RESTRICTED

In its formative years, its services were limited to providing work for crippled children who were unable to attend school and in transferring them to hospitals and clinics. People were also used to buy necessities, books, clothes and other necessities.

Growing and expanding to meet demonstrated needs, the society has developed a wide range of services, designed to carry crippled children along to the ultimate goal of a normal life.

Now, the society has only homes to give every crippled child a chance to get well and doing his work in preparation to enter a living. With the acquisition of the Hyde Memorial Home for Crippled Children the chance of accomplishing these objectives are no longer enhanced.

Along with the new home the society will continue to operate its summer camp at South Point, the first camp for crippled children in the state. It was opened in June, 1945, with an enrollment of 75 children. The program and all activities were under the direct supervision of the medical advisory committee, and the girls campers showed such remarkable physical improvement that the society, to insure the program's permanent, brought the camp also.

RESEARCH GIFT

A year ago the society demonstrated a program to stimulate community consciousness of the importance of fitting and aiding children suffering from cerebral palsy (spastic). It brought in the services of an occupational therapist, who gave special training and treatment to 25 spastic children. The medical reports evaluating the progress made by these children, indicated the importance of the program.

In recognition of the importance of helping the handicapped to become self-sufficient, the society is planning a community service for rehabilitation by opening a complete unit for physical and occupational therapy and this will be carried on as the new home.

The society recognizes that the severely disabled should be given a chance to become self-sufficient and contributing to their own support. It has not the occupational therapy is bringing new hopes and hope in the lives of Maine's handicapped by teaching them to make valuable articles.

NO DUPLICATION

The society duplicates the functions of no other agency, public or private. Through its services, which will be furnished by the new quarters, parents will be able to take their crippled children to hospitals and clinics.

In a broader field, the society now can provide special education for handicapped cases not meeting the requirements of the Division for Education of Physically Handicapped Children, depend in its purchase of mechanical devices which, not the equipment, and that the child, the family and the parent's to work understanding of the individual problems of the handicapped and to a more sympathetic interest in their needs.

(Staff photos by Dunham)



SWIMMING POOL—Elmhurst is also equipped with a large swimming pool in the basement. Although the pool was empty when the picture was taken, Robert Dorsey of Bath, who suffers from a crippled foot, waits for the water to be turned on.



THE GREENHOUSE—Mrs. Burton L. Preston of Brunswick, executive director of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, inspects the greenhouse contingent with the Elmhurst property which has been given to the society.



VIEWING THE PREMISES—Mrs. Rebecca A. Athern of Brunswick, a director of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, is seen inspecting the interior of Elmhurst, shortly after its acquisition, with Josephine Williams, former camper, now a counselor.



MODERN KITCHEN—Mrs. Rebecca Athern, director of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, and Mrs. Burton L. Preston, executive director, right, inspect the culinary department of Elmhurst, recently acquired property of the society.



CUPBOARD BARE—Soon this quest for cookies by Ralph Wright of Bath, a former camper, won't be so vain. His negative results are verified by Miss Margaret E. Stackpole of Augusta, a staff member of the occupational therapy department.